

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM MANY STATES

Important News Gathered from Abroad for the Benefit of Our Readers.

At the sale of Col. Jack Chinn's farm and stock in Mercer county the farm was taken down at \$100 an acre. The farm consists of 412 acres and is considered one of the best farms in that section but has only a small house. Cattle and stock brought good prices. There were about three thousand people present at the sale, which was the largest crowd ever seen at a public sale in Central Kentucky.

Owingsville, Ky. Nov. 9. George Greene shot and dangerously wounded Sam Butler at Green's home in the eastern part of the county. Neither will tell how or why the shooting was done. Greene is a prominent citizen and ex-Sheriff. A warrant for his arrest has been issued.

At Lee City Wolf county, Wiley Arnett shot and possibly wounded Calaway Sebastian on election day. We have been unable to learn the particulars of the difficulty. Sebastian was taken to the Good Samaritan hospital and it is thought he will recover.

On Wednesday night at about 8:30 some one threw a dynamite stick on the awning in front of James Hargis' store. The top of the awning being iron covered, the dynamite slid off the awning exploding near the ground. The explosion smashed the glass in the front of the store. June Jett, who sleeps in the store fired a shot at the parties as they ran into the Court House.

Frankfort, Ky. Nov. 8 The State Capitol Commission and the State Printing Board, composed of the Sinking Fund Commission members, held meetings today. The purpose of them was to audit a number of accounts which had accumulated during the last sixty days, when it was not possible to secure a majority of either body for such purposes. The contractors for the Capitol reported that twelve feet of the stone work on the dome of the new building has been constructed within five days, and that the work is progressing splendidly. The stone contractors on the work expect to complete their work by the close of November, and when the General Assembly of 1908 assembles it may be able to hold its initial session in the completed building, which at that time will only lack the furnishings and the landscape work of the exterior to make it a finished Capitol.

One farm of 142 acres located in the upper end of Boyd county, in good state of cultivation, well fenced 1 cottage house of 5 rooms; good well good barn, good orchard and never-failing water on place. Located on good Boyd county pike 8 miles from Catlettsburg and 2 miles from R. R. station. Post office, store, blacksmith shop mill, church and school house 1 mile distant. Price reasonable. For further information call on J. W. Bello-m, Durbin Boyd Co. Ky.

The Executive Committee of the Kentucky Jailer's Association has decided to ask the Legislature to abolish execution by hanging and substitute death by electrocution to take place in the State penitentiary at Frankfort. It is set out that execution by hanging is a relic of barbarism. Very often the rope breaks and the criminal has to be picked up and carried back to the scaffold. In other cases death is not instantaneous and the horrors of strangulation are suffered by the condemned man.

Paducah, Ky. Nov. 9—Former Governor W. S. Taylor will return to Kentucky to be tried for complicity in the murder of William Goebel as soon as he is assured of a fair trial. This was plainly indicated in a telegram he sent to Postmaster F. M. Fisher this morning in which he em-

phasized his desire for vindication, a desire that can be gratified only by trial and acquittal. His telegram said "Thanks for your congratulatory telegram. I congratulate you and the people of Kentucky on the noble work you did on the fifth. It was a grand battle, nobly fought and nobly won. Of course it means much to me. Vindication is what I desire above all else, and vindication I am resolved to have, somewhere, some time. Mr. Fisher's telegram, sent first thing after the result of the election was assured, to former Gov. Taylor, said: "I congratulate you on your opportunity for complete vindication."

Bee and a Dog.
Bees have a way of swarming in all sorts of places. One day about a million of them invaded a kennel where a terrier was quietly dozing. The dog naturally resented the intrusion, and not knowing the way to manage bees is to let them alone, even if they choose to settle on one's head, he tried to bite them, and was very badly stung. Fortunately his master was close at hand, and a few buckets of water saved the dog's life.

Muck-Raking.
General declarations against vice and sin are indeed excellently useful, as rousing men to consider and look about them; but they do often want effect, because they only raise confused apprehension of things, and indeterminate propensities to action, which usually, before men thoroughly perceive or resolve what they should practice, to decay and vanish.—Isaac Burrows.

Philosophy of Epictetus.
Epictetus: Everything has two handles, one by which it may be borne, another by which it cannot. If your brother acts unjustly, do not lay hold on the affair by the handle of his injustice, for by that it cannot be borne; but rather by the opposite, that he is your brother, that he was brought up with you, and thus you will lay hold on it as it is to be borne.

Providing for the Future.
A Cornish editor appeals to his subscribers in this unique way: "If you have frequent headaches, dizziness, and fainting spells, accompanied by chills, cramps, chilblains, epilepsy and jaundice, it is a sign that you are not well, but are liable to die at any minute. Pay your subscription a year in advance, and thus make yourself solid for a good obituary notice."

Russia's Prisoners.
In the political prison at Riga, according to the Rigaer Rundschau, if a prisoner, male or female, shows a head at the barred window, in search of air or light, the sentries shoot at the face, by order of Gen. Baron Meier-Zakomelski, who is called "the butcher of the Baltic Provinces."

Not Yet Cause for Alarm.
The sun is growing steadily smaller and will eventually shrink to a small globe. It however is only shrinking five miles every 100 years, and as its present diameter is 260,000 miles across present observers need not become alarmed over this scientific fact.

Time to Consider.
A Pittsburg man who claimed that he killed his wife by accident while faking her has been sent to the penitentiary for 17 years. By the end of that time he may come to the conclusion that nature didn't intend him for a humorist.—Washington Post.

Renunciation.
"I have always been a good friend to you, Mrs. Jinx," said Mrs. Lapsling, with blaring eyes, as she rose to go; "but I am a friend no longer. You have talked about my husband right here in where our paths diverge. Good afternoon."

Billions of Pins and Buttons.
Twenty billion pins and five billion buttons were produced by American factories in 1905. The United States also produced in that year 200,000,000 needles, nearly 400,000,000 safety pins and 250,000,000 hairpins.

Food and Civilization.
Few people realize adequately that the stomach is the greatest civilizing agency upon earth. A well-fed man, whose meals are suitably served, will rise out of barbarism with an irresistible elan.

Wax From Shrub.
A kind of wax suitable for soap and candle making is obtained in South Africa from the berry of a shrub (myrica cordifolia) which is used for binding drift sands.

Sutherland Acres.
The biggest estate in the United Kingdom is the lordship of Sutherland, the property of the duke of Sutherland. The estate is no less than 729,209 acres.

Gideon and His Three Hundred

Sunday School Lesson for Nov. 17, 1907
Specially Prepared for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—Judges 7-11. Memory verses II, 18.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Ye shall not fear them: for the Lord your God He shall fight for you."—Deut. 1:22.

TIME.—The period of the Judges lasted, according to our Bible margin, 322 years, B. C. 147-105 (including Eli and Samuel). Gideon lived about the middle of this period. Many scholars make the period shorter, and place it later. The question is unsettled.

PLACE.—The broad valley of Jezreel, which extends from the plain of Esdraelon southeast to the Jordan. The southern part of Galilee. The test of the 300 was by the Well Harod, 12 miles from the Jordan, and ten miles south of Nazareth. In this region took place the great battle in which Saul and his sons were slain (I Sam. 31:1-4:1).

Comment and Suggestive Thought.
The Period of the Judges.—The Book of Judges is a collection of records belonging to the period between the death of Joshua and the birth of Samuel, a period of 280 years according to our common chronology. But if we add together the numbers given in Judges they amount to 410 years. For this and other reasons it is entirely probable that "the oppressions and deliverances were not successive, but, in part, synchronous. There were, in fact, without exception, local struggles; and it is not only conceivable, but highly probable, that while one part of the land was enjoying security under its judge other tribes were groaning under the foreign yoke."—Prof. Moore. While several of the events were thus occurring at the same time in different parts of the land, in other cases the judges ruled practically over the whole. "The judges formed temporary heads in particular centers, or over particular groups of tribes.—Barak, in the north of Israel, Gideon, in the center, Jephthah, on the east of Jordan, Samson, in the extreme southwest."—Driver.

The Moral Decline.—At the close of a long period of peace and prosperity the people had degenerated morally. Business transactions with the Canaanites,—transactions which often required the performance of religious rites,—made it easy not to realize the difference between them. They were attracted by the easy morals of the heathen.

The Cry from the Depths.—In their great distress the people began to repent and cry unto the Lord for help. A prophet was sent to show them that their trouble was on account of their sins (Judg. 6:7-10).

The Answer.—God Raises Up Gideon.—Gideon belonged to the tribe of Manasseh. His father's name was Joash and lived at Ophrah, not far from Shechem. He was a man of highly noble person, and a noble race, like the son of a king, and whose brothers "each one resembled the children of a king" (Judg. 8:18). He was a man of strong common sense, a patriot, a true lover of God, cautious, modest, brave, and enthusiastic. The signs of the fleece (Judg. 6:36-40), says Ewald, illustrate Gideon's own character: warm and zealous, while all around were indifferent and cold; calm and cool, when all around were excited. Gideon was probably a middle-aged man at this time, for he had a son of his own almost grown up (Judg. 8:20).

The Sifting of the Army.—Gideon proclaimed: "Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him depart." In view of the fearful odds against them two-thirds of the army turned back, leaving only 10,000 soldiers.

Still there were too many for the purpose. The second sieve was woven of alertness, quick wit, self-control, vigorous strength, boldness. The test was through their way of drinking in the near presence of the enemy.

In order to understand the test we must see clearly the circumstances. Gideon's army was on one side of the stream, and the enemy on the other, and how near some scouting parties might be was unknown, "for the reeds and shrubs along the banks afforded ample cover for hostile ambushes. Those who bowed down, drinking headlong, did not appreciate their position or the foe."

The Victory by the Sword of the Lord and of Gideon.—Vs. 323. The Encouragement.—Vs. 9-15. Everything was now ready, except a new inbreathing of courage and faith. To accomplish this Gideon and his officer went early in the night into the camp of the Midianites sleeping in the security of their numbers. Listening near a tent, they heard a man telling to his comrade a dream from which he had just awakened. Compare with v. 13 the translation and annotation of the Polychrome Bible. "I dreamed that a cake of barley griddle-bread,—a kind of flat, round, hard-baked, ash-cake, representing the Israelite peasants—was rolling hither and thither through the camp of Midian, and it came to a tent and struck it and turned it upside down." The men interpreted the dream as meaning the overthrow of Midian by Israel.

Practical Points.

The story of Gideon does not teach that he cares nothing for means adapted to the end. Gideon had faith, but he used his forces in the best way, and selected the 300 because of their adaptation to the special service required.

In the Christian warfare the trumpets express our power of speaking for God. The lamps are our character and example, lighted by God's grace, and shining for men; and the pitchers represent our capacity of receiving the truth and the spirit of God.

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